

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of reserving access to a shared communication link by a number of devices is disclosed, having the steps of: (1) assigning a plurality, m , of counters to each of the number of devices, each counter counting from a first count value to a second count value; (2) using the values within the counting range from the first count value to the second count value to uniquely identify each of the number of devices; and (3) pausing the counting operation of a first counter of the plurality of counters, in each of the number of devices, that has the count value identifying a first of the number of devices requesting access to the shared communication link. Also disclosed, is an apparatus that supports the above-described method.